

# STREET SMART

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## Meeting Summary of the SANBAG Board of Directors

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[www.sanbag.ca.gov](http://www.sanbag.ca.gov)

### ♦ SANBAG Reinstates SCAG Membership

The SANBAG Board of Directors voted to rejoin Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), as a dues paying member and appointed Paul Leon as the SANBAG representative.

In June 2007, SANBAG Board voted to become a dues paying member of SCAG for a period of one year to improve SCAG's awareness on Inland Empire issues. During the past year SCAG was successful in re-evaluating its role within the region, which resulted in increased recognition of the needs of the Inland Empire.

San Bernardino County also has seven city representatives and one County Supervisor serving on the Regional Council. SANBAG also appoints seven members of the SANBAG Board to serve on three SCAG policy committees.

### ♦ Bair Announces Retirement



*SANBAG President Gary Ovitt (right) congratulates Bair for his 33 years of service.*

After 33 years with SANBAG, Mike Bair, director of transit and rail programs, announced his retirement. His last day will be January 3.

Bair has been a fundamental driving force for the creation and success of all transit and rail programs in San Bernardino County. He also administers the Local Transportation Fund (LTF), the State Transit Assistance Fund (STAF), the Valley Measure I Rail and Transit funds and oversees a

variety of state and federal transit assistance programs.

"I am very pleased to have worked with so many wonderful people in the transportation field," said Mike Bair. "It has been great to see the progress that has been made in our county".

Bair is leaving SANBAG, after having received an award for Outstanding Coordination Effort from the California Association for Coordinated Transportation earlier this year. In November he also was awarded the Small Operators Transit Leadership Award from the California Transit Association, recognizing his outstanding vision and strong leadership.

SANBAG wishes Mike Bair all the best in his well deserved retirement.

### ♦ Call for Projects

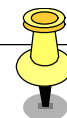
SANBAG Board of Directors approved a call for projects for city and county projects related to the construction of pedestrian and bicycle facilities, as well as improvement projects for transit stops.

The Transportation Development Act (TDA) provides for two percent of the Local Transportation Funds (LTF) to be made available for these purposes.

In August 1999 the SANBAG Board approved 20 percent of those funds to go toward improving access to transit stops for pedestrians and persons with disabilities. Eligible projects include retrofitting sidewalks with accessibility ramps to improve access to existing bus stops, construction of new sidewalks to serve as new or existing bus stop locations and construction of bus stop pads, including pads for bus shelters.

The remaining 80 percent of LTF funds will go toward pedestrian and bicycle projects. Eligible projects include preliminary engineering and right of way acquisition for bicycle and pedestrian facilities, curb, gutters and driveway ramp paving on a sidewalk project and purchase and installation of bicycle lockers and/or racks at major employment centers, park and ride lots and transit terminals.

For more information visit [www.sanbag.ca.gov](http://www.sanbag.ca.gov) or call Victoria Baker at (909) 884-8276.



### Meeting Calendar

- **Dec. 10:** Administrative Committee, 9:00 a.m.
- **Dec. 11:** Major Projects Committee, 9:00 a.m.
- **Dec. 17:** Plans and Programs Com., 12:00 p.m.
- **Dec. 18:** Commuter Rail Com., 12:00 p.m.
- **Dec. 19:** Mountain Desert Committee, 9:00 a.m.
- **Jan. 7:** Board of Directors Mtg., 9:30 a.m.

## 5th Street Bridge Opens to Motorists Ahead of Schedule

Less than two years after construction began on the 5th Street bridge, over I-215 in San Bernardino, the community gathered to celebrate the completion and opening of the new structure on November 7.



Elected officials, including San Bernardino Mayor Pat Morris, Montclair Mayor and SANBAG Vice President Paul Eaton, Councilmembers Esther Estrada and Rikke Van Johnson, Congressman Joe Baca, Assemblymember Wilmer Amina Carter, Supervisor Josie Gonzales and representatives from the offices of Senators Bob Dutton and Gloria Negrete McLeod, were among the nearly 200 attendees present to officially open the new 5th Street bridge to the public.

Following the ribbon-cutting ceremony, elected officials were among the first to cruise the newly built bridge in classic convertible cars. In addition, a commemorative painting of the new bridge by a California State University, San Bernardino student was presented to the city. All in attendance also received a smaller version of the art piece (photo below).



*Former 1950's bridge, courtesy of Jenny Ibarra*

The new \$23 million bridge replaces the original bridge built in 1951 and now provides two travel lanes in each direction, a meandering sidewalk and a 14 foot sidewalk along the north side of the bridge. The new bridge also allows for two turn lanes in each direction for future construction of on and off ramps connecting with I-215. In addition, 28 retro-style light poles also were installed to reflect the historical aspect of the City of San Bernardino.

The new bridge, which was completed ahead of schedule and under budget, is more than twice as wide as the original and 82 feet longer, now measuring 502 feet in length. It also is six feet taller, with a clearance of 20 feet, 10 inches. More than 1,500 cubic yards of concrete and more than 2 million pounds of reinforcement steel were used to build the bridge.

The completion of the bridge provides better access between the east and west sides of San Bernardino, which is much needed for businesses and residents. Event speakers focused on the city's revitalization and noted the new bridge as the first of many milestones for the I-215 widening project.

The SANBAG Board of Directors designated Caltrans to lead portions of Phase 4 construction of the I-215 widening project, which includes the construction of the connector ramps between I-215 and SR-210 and freeway widening between Massachusetts Avenue and University Parkway. Construction on this \$77 million phase is expected to begin in fall 2009 with an expected completion date of late 2013.

In the meantime, Caltrans continues work on widening I-215 from Orange Show Road to Rialto Avenue. Median work along the freeway is complete in this phase and Caltrans now has begun work on the outside lanes, including demolition and reconstruction of various bridges. For more information on this phase of construction, visit [www.caltrans8.info](http://www.caltrans8.info).